

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims in the above-identified application as follows:

Claims 1-20 (canceled).

Claim 21 (new). An antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof which specifically binds to a polypeptide comprising at least 12 contiguous residues of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 22 (new). The antibody of claim 21 wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

Claim 23 (new). The antibody of claim 21 wherein said antibody is a polyclonal antibody.

Claim 24 (new). The antibody of claim 21 wherein said antibody is a neutralizing antibody.

Claim 25 (new). The antigen-binding fragment of claim 21 wherein said fragment is selected from the group consisting of a Fab, a Fc, a F(ab)₂, and a Fv fragment.

Claim 26 (new). The antibody or antigen-binding fragment of claim 21 wherein said antibody or fragment further comprises a detectable label.

Claim 27 (new). The antibody or antigen-binding fragment of claim 26 wherein said label is selected from the group consisting of a radiolabel, a fluorescent label, a chemiluminescent label, and an enzymatic label.

Claim 28 (new). An anti-idiotypic antibody which specifically binds to the antibody or antigen-binding fragment of claim 21.

Claim 29 (new). An antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof which specifically binds to a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 30 (new). The antibody of claim 29 wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

Claim 31 (new). The antibody of claim 29 wherein said antibody is a polyclonal antibody.

Claim 32 (new). The antibody of claim 29 wherein said antibody is a neutralizing antibody.

Claim 33 (new). The antigen-binding fragment of claim 29 wherein said fragment is selected from the group consisting of a Fab, a Fc, a F(ab)₂, and a Fv fragment.

Claim 34 (new). The antibody or antigen-binding fragment of claim 29 wherein said antibody or fragment further comprises a detectable label.

Claim 35 (new). The antibody or antigen-binding fragment of claim 34 wherein said label is selected from the group consisting of a radiolabel, a fluorescent label, a chemiluminescent label, and an enzymatic label.

Claim 36 (new). An anti-idiotypic antibody which specifically binds to the antibody or antigen-binding fragment of claim 29.